

# Lavalla Catholic College

December 2011

Dear parents, students and members of the Lavalla Community,

We started the 2011 school year with a theme. In its words it seems simple, but in action it is complex. That theme was Excellence in Teaching and Excellence in Learning. I look around the College today, it is that time of year where the once busy grounds, classrooms and corridors fall silent and the students advance one more year towards their adulthood. And I look back on the 2011 and remember so many special occasions; the College musical, the student awards night, the music ensembles and their success at the eisteddfods, the debating, sports and Dante Aligheri teams and the personal successes the students and Staff have had. Each event and moment reminds me how blessed we are to part of the Lavalla Community and how proud I am of our students and teachers. Their commitment, determination and encouragement have made the 2011 school year a year where our theme of Excellence in Teaching and Excellence in Learning was made into reality.

I offer my thanks to the staff of the College who have worked with our students, encouraging them and challenging them to be curious, to seek answers, to test theories, to learn from their mistakes. In some cases to go beyond what they thought they were capable of. They have cheered from the side lines and their commitment to student learning and their dedication to their emotional welfare have been invaluable. I also offer my thanks to you parents, you have prioritised your child's education and found the time and the money to ensure that your child has a worthwhile education. You have worked with the College staff and you have supported and encouraged your child. You have been excellent examples of what it means to work in partnership. At Lavalla we are all grateful for the wonderful support we feel from parents. And to you students, for your part - you have shown your teachers and parents, how you value their contributions to your education and they in turn are appreciative of your efforts. Actually, your parents and teachers are more than appreciative – they are very proud of you.

I acknowledge that it is sometimes difficult to make the decision to commit to studies and to be the best you can be. It can seem that this is not the popular choice, that it is easier to be mediocre, to fit in and be one of the crowd. There can be so much social pressure on young people to

be 'popular', that they may not use their academic talents for fear that they won't be accepted by their peers. The world is filled with people who are famous simply for being in the public eye. They seem to do little to improve the world they live in - nor do they seem to be making a valuable social contribution. Often they are famous because they look pleasing and in fact we know of numerous examples where these socialites do immoral or outrageous things. The world is in desperate need of people who are prepared to take the hard path, to apply themselves and to use their skills and talents for good. We have a number of examples of this: Bill Gates, who was seen as a high school nerd, had a vision and worked towards it. Eventually he began Micro Soft and cumulated a fortune. He understood that his wealth gave him power, not to be in the spot light or to live a flashy life but to help the rest of the human race. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is now one of the largest philanthropic organisations in the world. Millions of lives are improved every year because of his wealth.

Our own Dr Fiona Woods, mother of six and Australian of the Year in 2005, developed a technique of spraying skin cells cultured from the patient's own skin directly onto the burn. We first learned about her after the Bali bombings where she was responsible for treating badly burnt victims. She is currently the Head of Royal Perth's Hospital Burn unit and Director of the WA Burn service. These people don't have 'the x factor' and have not been overnight sensations. They have not been "voted in" in a popularity contest nor are they seen at gala openings or on the red carpet. They have worked using their skills and talents and in the end the whole world is a better place because of their endeavours, their tenacity and their courage. Fortunately for us, our young people have seen beyond the cult of popularity too; they have all in one way or another risen to the challenge of using their talents. They have abilities in various areas and they have used them. They have applied themselves, worked hard and now they are to be recognised for their excellence.

Students, each of you have skills and talents, the ability to apply yourself, the ability to focus on what is important and the determination to stick with your studies. It is not such a reach to imagine, anyone of you becoming significant on the world stage. It may be through technology, science, medicine or religion that you lead the world forward. Or it

may be in your local area, working with a small community that you influence others, lead projects, teach students, raise your children. All of these things contribute to the 'social capital' of the world for which you will most definitely contribute. Finally I issue you with the challenge to keep being the people you are, keep at your studies, stay focused and go into the future with a Strong Mind and Compassionate Heart to help our world and all the people in it.

## THANKS

At the end of every year we inevitably say goodbye to a few people who have made other choices in life. They leave our community for many reasons and in a few moments we will acknowledge the contribution of a few significant men.

### MR DAN PRIGG

Mr Prigg has been a teacher since the 1980s- in fact I first met Mr Prigg when I was a student myself in Canberra. Dan is a teacher I greatly admire because he has always put the students first and has worked tirelessly for them. He has a wicked, dry sense of humour and is always up for some fun and a joke. He is so understanding of children and so forgiving of them when things don't go right. And while these things are important, Mr Prigg will be best remembered for his innovative and rigorous curriculum planning and his loyalty to and respect for the Leadership of the College, his passion for social justice and community work and his compassion for the marginalised. In fact, after so many years of teaching you would be forgiven for thinking that it was time that Dan and his wife Valarie enjoyed some rest and holiday. Instead it is Mr Prigg's intention to work with the Aboriginal mission in central Australia and to work with the marginalised. So much for quiet retirement! Mr Prigg will be acknowledged with a gift at another occasion but we take this opportunity to thank him for his many years of active and caring service.

### MR ROGA – DIRECTOR OF ST PAUL'S CAMPUS

As Campus Director over the last five years, Mr Roga has worked tirelessly for the students and staff of the campus. He has been an inspiration to many and has always had the student at the centre of all that he did. After his many years in education he can still find joy in the young people in his care. On behalf of us all, I thank Mr Roga for his stewardship of the campus and for all that he has

done to ensure a safe environment, a strong learning culture and positive relationships within our community.

We also say farewell to the following staff:

Miss Liz Krutli  
Miss Alana Risely  
Mr Russell Savige  
Mrs Nella DiSisto  
Mrs Alex Lay  
Mr George Steele  
Miss Dominica Szykrot  
Mrs Sally Gibson  
Miss Anne Entwistle  
Miss Jess Kerlin  
Mrs Vivian Haupt

Maternity Leave

Mrs Olivia Barrett

I would personally like to congratulate all the wonderful students and staff for their efforts, dedication and commitment this year. The world is a richer place because of your achievements. I thank you for your work this year and look forward to another good year in 2012. On behalf of the College staff and I wish you a safe and peaceful Christmas filled with God's blessing.

Be safe

Erica Pegorer  
*Principal*



# Christmas Reflection

When we look up at the night sky on a clear night what are some of the things that we know:

The nearest star to earth is four light years away

The light our eyeball sees from a star may have begun its journey towards us before the birth of Christ— at 300,000 kilometers a second... 18,000,000 kilometers a minute... 1,080,000,000 kilometers an hour... and in two thousand years, that's 189,216 million million kilometers – that's 189,216 followed by 12 '0's

Some of the lights we see in the night sky may not be stars but whole galaxies. They may be millions of stars that are so incredibly far away they appear to be just one pinpoint of light.

Our little corner of the universe is one of only a few places with light and activity. Most of space is vast emptiness with no stars and planets.

The earth's place in the universe may be comparable to the place occupied by a grain of sand in our own world.

I find all that awe-inspiring.

Perhaps that awe is something like the shepherds felt when the angels brought them the message of the birth of the Christ child. Of all the places of power and influence on earth, of the palaces, mighty kings and emperors... God chose humble people, his little ones to give his message to. The shepherds then went in search of the truth of what they were told... they went purposefully into the night to find God in their lives.

And look where Jesus is born. Not on some rich birthing coach of the wealthy, or in the halls of the mighty... there is not even a space for him in the local pubs... he comes to us where the shepherds gather their animals on a cold night... he is born in a stable. Jesus is found in the very ordinary, not in some place strange to the shepherds. It is an interesting hidden detail in the story that the shepherds would have already known where to look to find the truth of the angel's message.

So it is with us. We do not have to look for the presence of God in extraordinary places. God is not inaccessible and available only to the rich and famous. The love of God is where we are, in the everyday, not in a place that is strange to us. We need to have eyes that see this truth and hearts open enough to be a part of God constantly revealing himself to our sometimes cold world and lonely hearts.

We need to be like the shepherds: alert to the presence of love already in the world, open to those around us and to the power of God that will transform who we and others are becoming.

# ST. PAUL'S CAMPUS REPORT

Mr Chris Roga - Campus Director

This is the best time of the year. The academic year is nearly over. The Awards Night has celebrated another successful year.

Reflecting on five years in this position, there is so much to admire about St. Paul's. We have a skilled and dedicated staff. I am continually amazed when meeting other school leaders to see how well our staff compares with theirs. As a college we are innovative and dynamic, seeking continuous improvement for students. Our parents are showing greater connection to the college and a greater interest in their children's learning. St. Paul's has a rich mix of good students who make good use of these opportunities and resources to successfully get ready for the next stage of education.

Christmas is the right time to celebrate God's love in the family. As human beings we can be locked into the grinding pattern of birth, sin and death. But Jesus breaks that chain and brings hope; he is born, he remains sinless, he dies and God raises him from the dead. He has given us a blueprint for abundant life.

Christmas is a time to celebrate deeply. It is the time to show love to family and friends; to show them how special they are to us, through gifts, celebrations and gatherings. It is also a time to help the less fortunate. Encourage your children to be generous, to think of others.

Among a host of Christmas stories and films, three stand out; 'The Gift of the Magi' by O'Henry, the 'The Fourth Wise Man' and the film 'It's a Wonderful Life' by Frank Capra. All these emphasize the spirit of Christmas and are worth exploring.

I wish all of you a merry, holy and safe Christmas and a happy New Year from the staff at St. Paul's.

See you in 2012.

## YEAR 9 TRANSITION

On Thursday 1 December the Year 9 students at St. Paul's had their transition Ceremony, symbolically moving from St. Paul's to Kildare. The Year 8 and year 7 students lined a pathway in the Champagnat Centre and the Year 9s walked down the pathway and through a door. On one side they were farewelled from St. Paul's and as they stepped through, they were welcomed by Kildare. It is important that each year 9 student was named and their completing year 9 celebrated.

## YEAR 9 GRADUATION MASS

The Year 9s have completed Years 7-9 years and are beginning Years 10-12. This movement to Kildare marks a new opportunity for growth for each student. The Mass on Thursday evening proved to be a fitting ceremony for these students. Put together by the Year 9 students, it was held in the Champagnat Centre

and well attended. At the end of the Mass Bianca Gawith was awarded the John Tripodi Award for showing exceptional care towards fellow students in the college and wider community. Vince Tripodi and Peta Whitby spoke for John Tripodi, while Sam Tripodi presented the award to Bianca.

## CENTRAL AUSTRALIA: INAUGURAL TRIPPERS RETURN

44 students and 4 teachers returned from the inaugural trip to Central Australia on 30 November. After the 40 heat at Uluru they shivered in the drizzle. However, though looking bedraggled and haggard, they were happy to be home and excited with all the stories they had to tell. And 4000 photographs to show! The parent contingent too, waited patiently and could hardly restrain their joy to see the children after 10 days.

## ORIENTATION FOR YEAR 7, 2012

The year 7 (2012) Orientation Day on 6th December was an exciting day. 220 Year 7s crowded into the Year 7 centre and had a three -period orientation activities. They spent the periods with their homeroom teachers in a range of activities. From the The parents meanwhile attended a 45 minute information session. Since the college is going Netbook/laptop for 2012, the parent portal was demonstrated as a tool for monitoring and communicating with the school. Using the parent portal, parents can access reports, communicate with teachers, check timetables etc. 2012 is looking very exciting. Technology for 2012. With the campus becoming a 1-1 for netbooks/laptops learning anywhere, anytime becomes real. The Year 8 and 9 staff are gearing up to use more technology in the teaching-learning process.

## FUN RUN

Congratulations to Kaylah Thorburn and Cory Stockdale who came through first for their respective genders but more importantly congratulations to everyone for participating in the event. The course went around the campus and Traralgon College.

Results: Boys Girls

1st - Cory Stockdale (11:06) Kaylah Thorburn (15:20)

2nd - Paul Koul (11:22) Rachel Nelson (15:22)  
Jarrod Henderson (11:22)

3rd - Riley Loprese (11:33) Amelia Charlton (15:47)  
Chloe Catherwood (15:47)

## CAMPUS LEADERS 2012

The Campus Leaders for 2012 were elected recently. They are Kelsey van Iwaarden, Taryn Clarke, Conor Maccafferty and Nicholas Oldis. Congratulations to them and we wish them best of luck for 2012.



# PRESENTATION CAMPUS REPORT

Mrs Tamsin McCormack - Campus Director

As the year draws to an end, there is a decided air of activity. Students who are leaving the campus are saying their final goodbyes. New students are preparing to enter the College, with many nervous parents and children getting ready for orientation tomorrow. The students who are remaining at this campus are busy involved in activities such as Polaroid Madness, making Christmas goodies to give to the local nursing home, Master Survivor Program Orientation, a trip to Melbourne, fun run, picnic in the park and of course the giving of KK presents and the opportunity to wish everyone the best for the coming Christmas season.

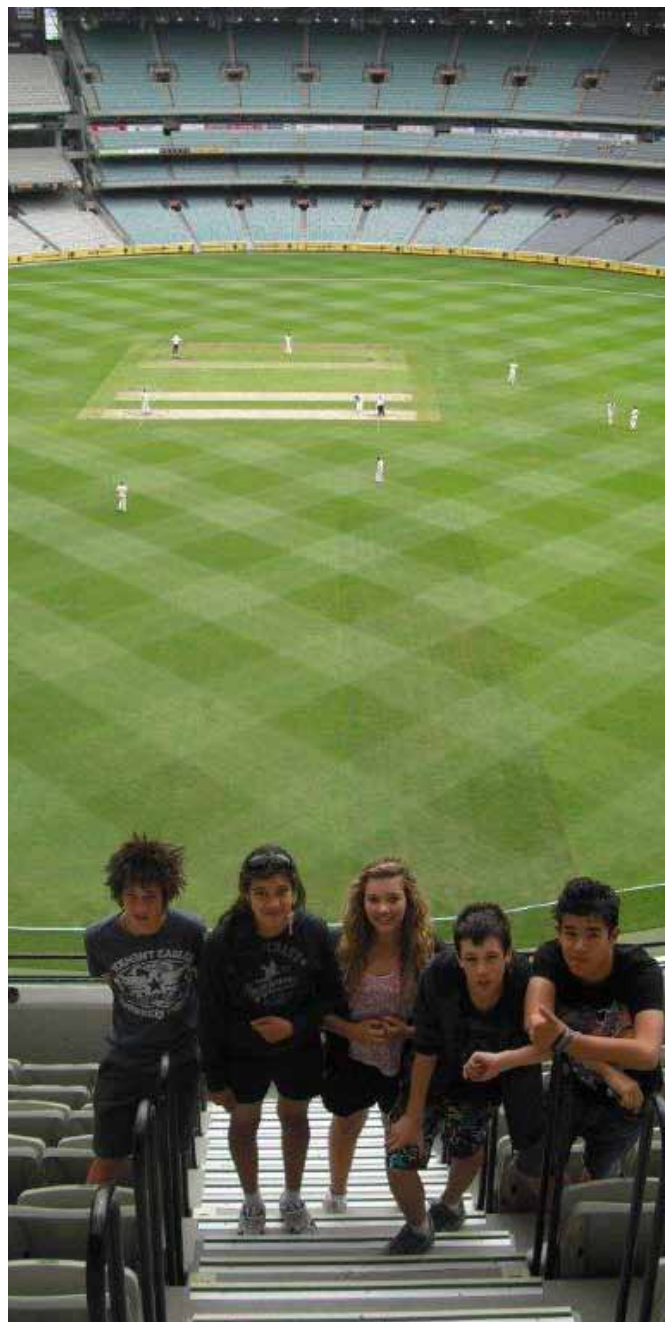
But prior to all this, the Year 8 students had the opportunity to have another go at their camp. With the weather being unkind while they were at Tamboritha, the students headed off to participate in the Zoo Snoozz, as well as visiting the Old Melbourne Goal, Police Museum, the State Library and the MCG. Whilst on this camp the students participated in Zoo familiarisation, including feeding some animals, tour of the MCG and National Sports Museum, including the great chance of watching some live cricket action. Whilst at the Old Melbourne Goal, the Police Museum and State Library they were researching Australian History, in anticipation of what they will continue to be learning about next year.

Today the year 7's have been participating in Polaroid Madness, this was a great opportunity for the Presentation Year 7 students and a group from St Paul's to get to know each other more, as well as to see what the Presentation Campus is like. Students had to take photos in and around the campus, then place these into a photo story. The result was funny, with many different stories coming out. It was great to hear comments from the students about the size of the campus and the facilities available.

Tuesday will be a very busy day at the Presentation Campus, with grade 6 into 7 orientation as we as all year 8 students from Lavalla participating in MSP orientation, enabling them to see what the program will have in store for them next year. Then tomorrow night Presentation Campus will be running a family night, to say thank you for the year and to present awards that have come from the local community for the Presentation students.

The staff and students of Presentation Campus would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Safe and festive Christmas. We look forward to seeing everyone in 2012.

Personally I would like to thank everyone for the support, encouragement and friendship over this my first year as Presentation Campus Director. The year has been full of challenges and the opportunity for me to expand my understanding of the College as a whole has been very rewarding. In this the Christmas Season, may the Joy and Hope of Christmas be with you and your families. I look forward to welcoming everyone back to the Presentation Campus, I trust that you will return rested and ready to face the challenges of 2012.



Thank-you to students and staff for the way they entered into the head-start period. Students were positive and focussed. Starting our 2012 year early allows us to give students some focus over this coming break and an ability to anticipate expectations. Our student feedback reflected this and I wish all of our students and staff a restful break.

## CLASS OF 2011

Our Year 12 Graduation dinner was a great celebration. Students were recognised for their excellence throughout the year. I thank Ms Morrow and Ms Lindsay for their work and effort in ensuring that this was such a successful celebration. The photos show some of the highlights of the night.

## 2012 AGENDA

Parents will receive a letter from me early on in 2012. It will outline a number of new initiatives that are being introduced next year to help foster a culture of "Excellence in Teaching, Excellence in Learning". We will also be highlighting our expectations of students in a number of area. In short, we will outline:

- New starting times for 2012 at the Kildare Campus
- Enhancing our Homework Club and Cross-Age Tutoring options and times
- Teacher Feedback
- Uniform Expectations
- Attendance Expectations



# IMPORTANT COLLEGE DATES

8th December Last day of classes for students in Years 7 and 8

13th December- 9am-12pm Report Distribution - All Campuses

22nd December - College officially closes for holiday period

3 February - Years 7/10 and 12 commence

6 February - All other students commence

## POSITIONS VACANT

Yr 12 2011 students for the above positions. The Sports Trainee to commence at the beginning of the 2012 school year and the Education Trainee to commence in March 2012. These are both ideal positions for students wishing to take a Gap year.

**Sport Trainee:** This role reports directly to the Camps Organiser across all three campuses. The tasks involved: assisting with the organisation of sporting events and camps. Applicants must be available to attend numerous over night camps and long day excursions.

1x Education Trainee

**Education Trainee:** This role reports directly to the Master Survivor Program Leader and Campus Director of Presentation Campus. Located: primarily on the Presentation Campus. The tasks involved: assisting with the organisation of MSP events and camps. Applicants must be available to attend numerous over night camps and long day excursions.

Applicants for both positions need to be:

Physically fit

Clear written and verbal communicators

Well organised

Able to take direction

Work without supervision

Computer literate

A current driver's licence (or the ability to gain one before the commencement of the position) is essential.

Applications, including letter of application, resume and contact details for 3 referees can be forwarded in writing / via email to

Miss Hayley Casagrande

PO box 1080

Traralgon VIC 3844

Emails should be directed to: [casahay1@LAVALLA.VIC.EDU.AU](mailto:casahay1@LAVALLA.VIC.EDU.AU)

Subject line: Trainee application - Closing date 15th December

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# College Awards - December 2011



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